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REMARKS-General

With regard to item 4 of the detailed action:

(Van Huben et al, is actually US 5,950,201 – but was US 5,812,130 meant?)

Burrows et al., 6,397,117 B1 is shown as filed in the UK on Jun 4, 1997. The present application is to a great extent based on a system first shown publicly in the US in April of 1997, which demonstrated functionality seemingly identical to claims 1-3, 5, 6-8, 10, 11-13 and 15 of Burrows. The filing date of provisional 60 / 080,905 (4/06/98) was in fact timed to be within the one year of disclosure (35 USC section 102), conception and initial development predating this by several months. *Affidavits to be provided in the near future.*

Moreover, it would appear that what Burrows claims in 1-2, 6-7 and 11-12 would postdate much prior client-server CAD software art, in particular any circuit synthesis/simulation tool controllable via an X-Windows interface (dating from mid-1980's, as noted in present application's Description of Prior Art), with all of the supposed advantages of the Burrows invention accruing equally to the aforementioned X-Windows-based CAD systems. Although X was designed to permit real-time graphical control of a remote program, it is also capable of presenting simple forms.

However, in addition to the above objection as to precedence, Burrows makes mention only of the optional use of passwords for account management (security), but does not address the problems of **public** CAD tool use. Significantly Burrows does **not** disclose a server-generated Unique Identifier as stated in paragraph 6 of item 4 ("As per claims 4-6...") of the action. (Burrows refers only to unspecified "identification procedures".) The apparent tool usage context assumed by Burrows is an extension of a traditional CAD environment in which passwords and accounts are used to control access. Such a parallel mechanism exists in HTTP Authentication, (e.g. see "MD5 Digest Access Authentication, <http://www.w3.org/Protocols/rfc2069/rfc2069>), but no unique identifier is involved. The present invention can also be used with an account/password login, however it is not required. The aforementioned Unique Identifier of the present invention can be used to identify an anonymous or unregistered user and is an integral part of the present invention's Claim 1 and a substantially different art from that disclosed by Van Huben in 5,950,201 (identifiers created by CRC of object data – which is distinct from the present invention's use of a checksum to authenticate a Unique Identifier).

Additionally:

- Burrows does **not** teach a method for tracking simulation usage and limiting it per unit time (paragraph 7, "As per claim 7").
- Neither Burrows nor Van Huben 5,812,130 / 5,950,201 teach prioritization based on usage ("As per claim 8...").

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- Regarding paragraph 8 ("As per claim 9"), Burrows would seem to imply (claim 9) the step of simulating a synthesized design, however he does not disclose how to accomplish keeping track of intermediate design data in a public environment.
- Of the new claims, claim 11 has some parallels with traditional Unix account management except that here it is based on the server-assigned Unique Identifier. Regarding new claims 12 and 13, I do not believe either Burrows or Van Huben make any claims or disclosures in these areas.

For the above stated reasons I do not believe Burrows implies obviousness under 35 USC section 103a.

Moreover, even were the claimed inventions substantially identical (and I do not believe they are), the primary use of the present invention is substantially different from Burrows in that it is applicable to demonstrating components and systems and has educational/training uses (as opposed to use solely for design). Contrary to Burrows, the present invention is intended to be interactive and immediately responsive to the user, whereas Burrows appears to envision the browser-controlled initiation of a batch process ("Accordingly, a distributed CAD tool has been described whereby tasks such as synthesis, compilation, simulation and so on, which do not require "real-time" interaction with the tool are performed on a server station which is remote from a client station where a user is located.") Consequently, I believe the present invention additionally has aspects of New Use.

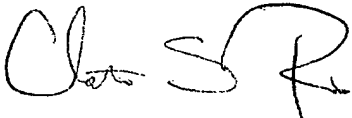
Conclusion:

We still hold that the present application Solves a Different Problem from any of the references attached in the office action and that the field is a Crowded Art in which the methods disclosed are a significant advance over what came before.

Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance:

The applicant has amended the Background and the Claims so that they are proper, definite and define novel methods which are also unobvious. If, for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestion of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. S2173.02 and S707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

--- begin added section ---

11. (Added) The computer Network of Claim 1, wherein said assigned Unique Identifier is associated with superior or inferior privileges, said privileges comprising at least one of: a) access to models and circuits, b) simulation priority and/or maximum simulation time, c) quality/accuracy of simulation methods employed, d) the maximum size and/or persistence of design and/or simulation data, etc.

12. (Added) The computer Network of Claim 1, wherein said assigned Unique Identifier may be saved in the Client's browser (e.g., a "Cookie") to permit a simulation/evaluation session to be suspended and resumed at a later time without necessitating a new login or other re-qualification for access.

13. (Added) The computer Network of Claim 1, wherein some portion of the said User Form Data is logged together with at least said Unique Identifier for marketing/sales or debugging purposes. Suitable local/remote storage mechanisms for said logged data include, but are not limited to: a) HTTP log file (if HTTP GET mechanism used to initiate simulation), b) file of a type and format determined by the simulation software or c) database record.

--- end added section ---